

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of generating a frame prototype image showing a picture image framed within a frame, the method comprising:
providing a frame image showing the frame in a perspective view, the frame image having a picture portion corresponding to the portion of the frame used to view a picture mounted in the frame; and

mapping the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image in order to generate the frame prototype image.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a picture portion of the frame image.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the picture portion of the frame image includes providing a mat identifying the picture portion of the frame image.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the mat includes a plurality of pixels, each pixel having a pixel value.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein identifying the picture portion of the frame image includes setting each pixel in the mat that corresponds to the picture portion of the frame image to a first pixel value.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the picture portion of the frame image includes identifying the outer perimeter of the picture portion of the frame image.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the picture portion of the frame image has a quadrilateral shape and the method further includes identifying the picture portion of the frame image including identifying the four corners of the picture portion.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the frame prototype image.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein mapping the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image includes texture mapping the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the mapping the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image includes mapping the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image using the illumination of the picture portion of the frame image.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the frame image is captured using a digital
2 camera.

1 12. A computer program product tangibly embodied in a computer-readable
2 medium, for generating a frame prototype image showing a picture image framed within a
3 frame, comprising instructions operable to cause a computer to:

4 receive the picture image;
5 store a frame image showing the frame in a perspective view and a mat identifying
6 the picture portion of the frame image; and
7 map the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image in order to generate
8 the frame prototype image.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions
2 operable to cause the computer to generate the map.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising instructions
2 operable to cause the computer to generate the map by identifying the picture portion of the
3 frame image.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions
2 operable to cause the computer to identify the picture portion of the frame image by
3 identifying the outer perimeter of the picture portion of the frame image.

1 16. A system for generating a frame prototype image showing a picture image
2 framed within a frame, the system comprising:

3 a client computer in communication with a computer network;
4 a server, in communication with a computer network, having server software
5 embodied in a computer-readable medium, the server software comprising instructions
6 operable to cause the server to:

7 receive the picture image from the client computer;
8 store a frame image showing the frame in a perspective view and a mat
9 identifying the picture portion of the frame image; and
10 map the picture image to the picture portion of the frame image in order to
11 generate the frame prototype image;

12 wherein the client computer includes client software embodied in a computer-
13 readable medium, the client software comprising instructions operable to cause the client
14 computer to upload the picture image to the server.

1 17. A method of generating a visual representation of an image based product, the
2 method comprising:

3 providing an image to be included in the image based product;
4 providing a perspective image showing the image based product in a perspective
5 view, the perspective image having a picture portion corresponding to the portion of the
6 image based product used to view a picture mounted on the image based product; and
7 mapping the image to the picture portion of the perspective image in order to generate
8 the perspective prototype image

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the image based product is a framed picture.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the image based product is a
2 photocard.

1 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the image based product is a photo
2 greeting card.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the method includes displaying the
2 perspective image in an environment that provides a context for viewing the image based
3 product.